

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LONDON 01237 241106Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 AID-05 ACDA-12
PC-05 EB-08 DOE-11 SOE-02 DOEE-00 /107 W
-----116897 241113Z /14

O 241052Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2332
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL BELIZE IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS LONDON 01237

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PBOR, UK, GT, BH, ME
SUBJECT: GUARDIAN ALLEGES "THREE-WAY SPLIT" OF BELIZE

SUMMARY - JANUARY 24 GUARDIAN FRONT-PAGED A STORY ALLEGING THAT HMG HAS DECIDED TO FORCE SETTLEMENT OF THE BELIZE DISPUTE BY DIVIDING THAT DEPENDENCY INTO THREE PARTS, A SOUTHERN SEGMENT GOING TO GUATEMALA, A NORTHERN SEGMENT TO MEXICO AND A LARGER CENTRAL SECTION FORMING AN INDEPENDENT BELIZE. THE ARTICLE ALSO ASSERTS THAT DECISION TO DIVIDE BELIZE IN THIS WAY WAS PROBABLY THE RESULT OF U.S. PRESSURE. THIS STORY WAS NOT PICKED UP BY OTHER MORNING PAPERS, BUT HAS BEEN REPORTED ON RADIO NEWS SUMMARIES, WITH ATTRIBUTION TO THE GUARDIAN. ORIGIN OF THIS ACCOUNT IS NOT KNOWN, BUT WE WILL BE DISCUSSING IT WITH THE FOREIGN OFFICE. IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT ITS PUBLICATION ON THE DAY PRICE IS DUE TO BEGIN CONVERSATIONS WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN IS COINCIDENTAL. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE PRESS GUIDANCE SOONEST.-END SUMMARY

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 LONDON 01237 241106Z

1. THE JANUARY 24 GUARDIAN HEADLINED A FRONT PAGE STORY: "BRITAIN AGREES TO THREE-WAY SPLIT OF BELIZE". THE STORY, APPEARING UNDER PATRICK KEATLEY BY-LINE, ALLEGES THAT HMG HAS DECIDED TO "DISMEMBER" BELIZE, DIVIDING IT INTO THREE PARTS. A SLICE IN THE SOUTH WOULD BE GIVEN TO GUATEMALA TO SETTLE ITS TERRITORIAL CLAIM, A SLICE IN THE NORTH GIVEN TO MEXICO FOR THE

SAME REASON AND THE LARGER CENTRAL SECTION WOULD THEN BECOME THE NEWLY INDEPENDENT STATE OF BELIZE. THE ARTICLE DID NOT DESCRIBE SIZES OF THESE THREE HYPOTHETICAL SEGMENTS. KEATLEY ALSO ASSERTED THAT THOSE BELIZIANS IN THE NORTH AND SOUTH WHO DID NOT MOVE "WILL HAVE TO ADAPT TO LIFE IN A SPANISH SPEAKING COMMUNITY".

2. KEATLEY REPORT CONTINUES, NOTING THAT BELIZIAN PRIME MINISTER PRICE, WHO IS DUE TO BEGIN TALKS WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN TODAY, IS "SAID TO FEEL ANGRY AND BETRAYED" AT THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT. AUTHOR THEN ASSERTS THAT SETTLEMENT: "WOULD GIVE GEN. LAUGERUD'S GOVERNMENT THE NORTH SIDE OF THE BAY WHICH AMERICAN OIL DRILLERS REGARD AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE MEXICAN DOME FORMATION. AS ASSESSMENT BY THE CIA, PRESENTED TO PRESIDENT FORD, IS SAID TO HAVE RATED THIS FIELD COMPARABLE IN VOLUME TO THOSE OF SAUDI ARABIA". THE ARTICLE ALSO DISCUSSES THE HISTORICAL ORIGINS OF THE GUATEMALAN AND MEXICAN CLAIMS, CARIBBEAN SUPPORT FOR BELIZE'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, VARIOUS GUATEMALAN MILITARY MOVES OVER THE YEARS WHICH FORCED HMG TO REINFORCE ITS BELIZE GARRISON AND THE RECENT DECLINE IN LATIN AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR GUATEMALA. CONCLUDING, KEATLEY SUGGESTS THAT THE ALLEGED THREE-WAY SPLIT WAS THE WORK OF THE U.S. -- "WASHINGTON PRESSURE MAY BE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 LONDON 01237 241106Z

THE REAL EXPLANATION OF PRESENT BRITISH TACTICS. THE AMERICAN VIEW IS THAT A SMALL CRICKET-PLAYING COMMUNITY, STUCK INTO THE CENTRAL AMERICAN MAINLAND BY ACCIDENT OF HISTORY, HAS TO BE SEEN AS EXPENDABLE IN THE GREATER GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE".

3. THE GUARDIAN STORY WAS NOT PICKED UP BY ANY OF THE OTHER MORNING PAPERS, BUT HAS BEEN SUMMARIZED ON THE RADIO NEWS, WITH APPROPRIATE ATTRIBUTION. WE WILL BE DISCUSSING THIS ARTICLE WITH THE FOREIGN OFFICE LATER TODAY AND WILL ADVISE ADDRESSEES OF FCO REACTION AND VIEWS. AT THIS POINT, HOWEVER, THE SOURCE OF THE KEATLEY STORY IS NOT KNOWN, BUT ITS APPEARANCE ON THE DAY PRICE/OWEN TALKS ARE SCHEDULED TO BEGIN CAN HARDLY BE COINCIDENTAL.

4. DEPARTMENT ACTION: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE PRESS GUIDANCE SOONEST IN THE EVENT WE RECEIVE INQUIRIES FOLLOWING UP ON THE GUARDIAN STORY.

BREWSTER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, BORDER INCIDENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LONDON01237
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780035-0333
Format: TEL
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780130/aaaaayso.tel
Line Count: 115
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b1eda1e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 feb 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3725755
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GUARDIAN ALLEGES "THREE-WAY SPLIT" OF BELIZE SUMMARY - JANUARY 24 GUARDIAN FRONT-PAGED A STORY ALLEGING THAT HMG HAS DECIDED TO FORCE SETTLEMENT
TAGS: PBOR, UK, GT, BH, MX
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b1eda1e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014